

New Hampshire Preschool Vision And Hearing Screening Program



Why is screening important?

- Screening detects vision and hearing problems that could make it harder for a child to learn.
- Reduced hearing can affect a child's ability to speak words correctly.
- Unknown vision or hearing losses can lead to poor performance in school.

Who needs to be screened?

- Experts recommend that all children have vision and hearing tests during the preschool years since 5-10% are estimated to have undetected vision problems. This program provides screening for children who might otherwise be missed.
- About 40 clinics are held each year throughout the state with nearly 2,000 children between the ages of 3- and 6-years-old being tested.

What services do you offer?

- The program coordinator works with interested community groups to set clinic dates in the Spring and Fall of each year.
- Volunteers are trained to assist at these clinics. These individuals help make the clinics successful.

- Follow-up is provided for children who need either further testing or referral for treatment.
- Program staff work with teachers, health care providers and parents to get the appropriate services for children in need.

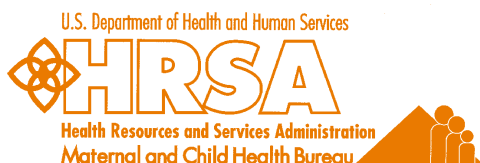
How is a child's vision and hearing checked?

- Hearing screening is done using an audiometer and a tympanometer. An audiometer tests the ability to hear sound at low levels. A tympanometer checks for conditions that would reduce hearing, such as too much wax.
- Vision screening uses an eye chart to check vision acuity (i.e., the ability to see clearly). Children are also tested for amblyopia (lazy eye) and strabismus (muscle balance).

Where can I get more information?

To learn more about the Preschool Vision and Hearing Screening Program, call:

Bureau of Maternal and Child Health
800-852-3345 ext. 1037
603-271-1037



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and Human Services
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